

Eid Ul Fitr

Eid al-Fitr^[b] ([Arabic](#): عيد الفطر, [romanized](#): *ʿĪd al-Fiṭr*, [lit.](#) 'Festival of Breaking the Fast') is the first of the two main [festivals in Islam](#), the other being [Eid al-Adha](#). It falls on the first day of [Shawwal](#), the tenth month of the [Islamic calendar](#).^[c] Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by [Muslims](#) worldwide as it marks the end of the [month-long, dawn-to-dusk fasting \(sawm\)](#) during [Ramadan](#).^{[2][3]} The holiday is known under various other names in different languages and countries around the world.^[d]



Eid al-Fitr has a particular [salah](#) that consists of two [rakats](#) generally performed in an open field or large hall. It may only be performed in congregation (*jamāʿat*) and features six additional [Takbirs](#) (raising of the hands to the ears whilst reciting the [Takbir](#), saying "Allāhu 'Akbar", meaning "God is the greatest"). In the [Hanafi](#) school of [Sunni Islam](#), there are three *Takbirs* at the start of the first *rakat* and three just before [rukūʿ](#) in the second *rakat*.^[6] Other Sunni schools

usually have 12 *Takbirs*, similarly split in groups of seven and five. In [Shia Islam](#), the *salat* has six *Takbirs* in the first *rakat* at the end of [Tilawa](#), before *rukū'*, and five in the second.^[7] Depending on the juristic opinion of the locality, this *salat* is either [fard](#) (فرض, obligatory) or [mustahabb](#) (strongly recommended). After the *salat*, Muslims celebrate the Eid al-Fitr in various ways with [food](#) being a central theme,^[8] which also gives the holiday the nickname "Sweet Eid" or "Sugar Feast".^{[9][10]}

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is one of the most important Islamic celebrations. It begins with a communal prayer and is followed by visits to relatives, giving gifts, and sharing meals.^[11]

The holiday occurs in the Islamic month of Shawwāl, immediately after Ramadan ends.^[12]

In many parts of the world, Eid al-Fitr is also characterized by distinctive local customs that reflect regional cultures. Communities often mark the occasion with large family visits, public celebrations, and the sharing of traditional foods and sweets prepared specifically for the holiday. Markets and neighborhoods in several countries become especially lively as people buy new clothing, gifts, and festive meals, while charitable giving and community gatherings remain central elements of the celebration. Despite cultural differences, the festival commonly emphasizes social connection, generosity, and the strengthening of family and community ties.^[13]

History

According to Muslim tradition, [Muhammad](#) instituted the celebration of Eid al-Fitr.^[14] According to a certain [hadith](#), these festivals were initiated in [Medina](#) after the [migration of Muhammad from Mecca](#). [Anas ibn Malik](#), a [companion of Muhammad](#), narrated that when Muhammad arrived in Medina, he found people celebrating two specific days in which they entertained themselves with recreation. Muhammad then remarked that [God](#) had fixed two mandatory days of festivity: Eid al-Fitr and [Eid al-Adha](#).^[15]

General rituals

See also: [Zakat al-Fitr](#)

Eid al-Fitr begins at sunset on the night of the first sighting of the crescent moon. The night on which the moon is sighted is celebrated as [Chand Raat](#) in countries like [Bangladesh](#). If the moon is not observed immediately after the 29th day of the previous lunar month (either because clouds block its view or because the western sky is still too bright when the moon sets), then the holiday is celebrated the following day.^[16] Eid al-Fitr is celebrated for one to three days, depending on the country.^[17] It is [forbidden](#) to fast on the Day of Eid, and a specific prayer is nominated for this day.^[18] As an obligatory act of charity, money is paid to the poor and the needy ([zakat al-Fitr](#)) before performing the 'Eid prayer.^[19]

Eid prayer

Main articles: [Eid prayers](#) and [Eidqah](#)

The Eid prayer is performed by the congregation in an open area such as a field, community center, or mosque.^[17] No [call to prayer](#) is given for this Eid prayer, and it consists of only two [raka'āt](#), with a variable amount of [takbirs](#) and other prayer elements depending on the [branch of Islam](#) observed. The Eid prayer is followed by the [khutbah](#) and then a [dua](#) asking for God's forgiveness, mercy, peace and blessings for all living beings across the world. The sermon also instructs Muslims as to the performance of rituals of Eid, such as the [zakāt](#).^[20] The sermon of Eid takes place after the Eid prayer, unlike [Friday prayer](#) which comes first before prayer. Some imams believe that listening to the sermon at Eid is optional.^[21] After the prayers, Muslims visit their relatives, friends, and acquaintances or hold large communal celebrations in homes, community centers, or rented halls.^[17]

Sunni procedure

As ritual dictates, Sunnis praise God in a loud voice while going to the Eid prayer:

Allāhu Akbar, Allāhu Akbar, Allāhu Akbar. Lā ilāha illà l-Lāh. Allāhu Akbar, Allahu akbar, wa-li-l-Lāh al-ḥamd

Recitation ceases when they get to the place of Eid or once the Imam commences activities.^[22]

The prayer starts by doing [niyyah](#) "intention" for the prayer before the takbir is said by the [imam](#). Next, the takbir al-[ihram](#) is performed, by saying takbir three times, raising hands to the ears and dropping them each time, except for the last when the hands are folded. The Imam then reads [al-Fatihah](#), followed by another surah. The congregation performs [ruku](#) and [sujud](#). This completes the first *rak'ah*.^[23]

The congregation rises and folds their hands for the second rak'ah, after which the imam recites al-Fatiha followed by another surah. After this, three takbirs are called out just before the ruku, each time raising hands to the ears and dropping them. For the fourth time, the congregation says Allahu Akbar and subsequently goes into the ruku. The rest of the prayer is completed regularly. This completes the Eid prayer. After the prayer, there is a [khutbah](#).^[24]

Shia procedure

The prayer starts with the *Niyyat* followed by five *Takbirs*. During every *Takbir* of the first *rakat*, a special *Dua* is recited. Then, the Imam recites *Sūrat al-Fātiḥah* and *Surat Al-'A`lá* and the congregation performs *Ruku* and *Sujud* as in other prayers. In the second *Rakat*, the same above steps (five *Takbeers*, *Sūrat al-Fātiḥah* and *Surat Al-'A`lá*, *Ruku* and *Sujud*) are repeated. After the prayer, *Khutbah* starts.^[25]

Post-prayer celebration

See also: [Eid cuisine](#)

During the Eid celebration, Muslims greet each other by saying '*Eid Mubarak*', which is Arabic for "Blessed Eid". As it comes after a month of fasting, sweet dishes and foods are often prepared and consumed during the celebration. Muslims typically decorate their homes, and are also encouraged to forgive each other and seek forgiveness. In countries with large Muslim populations, it is normally a public holiday with most schools and businesses closed for the day. Practices differ by country and region.^[26]